

A true Copy of a Paper delivered by Robert Young, to the Reverend Mr. Allen, Ordinary at Tyburn on the 19th of April, 1700.

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I Cannot but be very sensible how justly I have provoked a most merciful and just God to Anger by my manifold Offences I have committed; and therefore for the necessary discouragement of others, who shall endeavour to tread in my steps, and parallel my Forgeries; I conceived it a Duty incumbent on me, to leave the World a true and faithful Narrative of my Prevaricating Steps; but the shortness of Time allotted me, being not sufficient to finish such a Work in, I will mention only these few Passages of my Life.

And first I think my self especially oblig'd to discover to the Publick how far I was concerned in that pretend'd Plot, supposed to be carried on by the Earls of *Marlborough* and *Salisbury*, the Lord Bishop of *Rochester*, and some others, the truth of which I call God to Witness, is as follows; I was committed to *Newgate* till I discharged a certain Fine impos'd on me; during my Confinement one *Henry Pearson*, a Surgeon I think, was committed to the same Place for Debt, he perceiving me to be very expert in Counterfeiting Hands, told me that if I could contrive a Sham-plot, and father it upon those noble Peers, I might soon have Money enough to pay my Fine. Being in a very low Circumstances, I readily consented to this Proposal, but told him nothing could be done in that Matter till he was released, with in a short time was effected. As soon as he was at Liberty he employed one *Blackbeard* to carry Letters betwixt us; I hapn'd by a certain Stratagem to see the Eagle of *Marlborough's* Hand: this I Counterfeited so cunningly, that it was very difficult to discern the true from the false, then I drew up an Association, and affixt to it the Hands of the Earls of *Marlborough* and *Salisbury*, as also *Sir Basil Fribourg's*, the Lord Bishop of *Rochesters*, and the Lord *Cornbury's* was wrote by another Hand, according to my Request. And that the more credit might be given to this pretended Plot, I wrote several Letters in the Name of the Lord *Marlborough*: for I was perfectly acquainted with his way of Writing, supposed to be directed to me, which *Blackbeard* used to bring me again; and yet he Swore before the Lords of the Council, that the said Earl sent them to me, whereas, to his Knowledge, I my self Forged them, and order'd them to be sent after that manner. This is the truth of that Business, which has made so great a noise in the World; and humbly beg the Pardon of those noble Peers, and do declare once more in the presence of God, that I did not set the Lord Bishop of *Rochesters*, or the Lord *Cornbury's* Hand to the said Paper; yet it was done with my consent by another Person. And whereas I am accused with writing several threatening Letters to the said Bishop, if he did not leave a Hundred Pound in a certain Place; I declare as I am a Dying Man, I was not concerned in it. As for this Crime of Coining, for which I die, I decare before God, I am no otherwise Guilty than by being a Spectator.

But altho' I am not Guilty of this Fact, yet I must lay my Hand upon my Mouth, and confess that the Lord is Righteous, and his Judgments Upright, for I have injur'd my Neighbour so often by Forgeries, Cheats, &c. that I think it scarce possible to recount them. But that I may not totally omit them neither: In the Year 1695. I remov'd my self by Habeas Corpus, from the King's-Bench to the Fleet; where I came acquainted with Mr. Hunter, now living in Billiter-lane, Mr. George Alliver, alias Blok, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Greenfield, Mr. Corn, and others whom I have forgot: In the end, we conspired to Cheat one Mr. Tho. Lashby of Leeds in Yorkshire, out of Cloth, to the value of 135 l. which accordingly was effected, and the Cloth delivered at the Bear-Inn in Basinghall-street. In the Year 97, I was by the Warden of the Fleet, remov'd back again to the Kings-Bench, where I came acquainted with Mr. John Cary, George Benson, and James Roberts, and by false Bills of Exchange, and forged Letters, endeavour'd to Cheat Mr. Seth Lofthouse, a Goldsmith in Fleet-street, and Mr. Peter Block Machiels, a Merchant in Amsterdam, out of 1600 l. but that fail'd, tho' Cary, was Pillor'd for it. In the aforesaid Year 97, I came acquainted likewise with one Mr. John Griffin of Turtle street Westminster; and by forged Leases, as under one Dr. Tho. Lampugh's Hand. I have Cheated Men in Town out of several Hundred Pounds, by way of Mortgage: Sir John Johnson an Alderman, and Goldsmith in Cheapside, since Deceas'd, very narrowly escap'd of being Cheated out of 200 l. by Virtue of one of the aforementioned Leases.

In the Year 98, the aforesaid Persons and I Cheated M. *Asariah Reynolds*, an undertaker in Cheapside, of a Velvet-Pall, two Cloaks, &c. by a forged Letter, as from his Correspondent in the Country for which I was committed to *Newgate*, and Fined 200 *Merks* at *Guild-hall*, where I receiv'd my Tryal, and was Convicted.

In *Newgate*, I came acquainted with *Jones* the Evidence, whom I saw Coin in the Debtors-hall several Sums of Money: How far I was concern'd with them, I have already observ'd: But I forgive them, and do humbly beg God, and the Persons I have wronged, to forgive me those wicked Actions I have committed. Into thy Hands O God: I commend my Spirit. Lord Jesus receive the Soul of the Unhappy and Miserable.

Robert Young.

This is a true Copy,
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